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PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 4630-58963
Application Number 09/857,583

Remarks

Claims 1-11, 14, and 28-31 were pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14, 28, and 29 are amended herein. Support for the amendments is provided below. No new matter has been added by these amendments. After entry of this Amendment, **Claims 1-11, 14, and 28-31 are pending.**

Telephone Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Rao for the courtesy of telephone interview on February 13, 2004, at which time the Examiner requested that Applicants file a supplemental amendment to clarify the language in certain claims. In particular, the Examiner requested that Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14, and 29 be amended to further clarify the identities of the claimed desaturases, and that Claim 28 be amended to clarify antecedent basis. As stated below, Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 14, 28, and 29 are amended herein to comply with the Examiner's request.

At Examiner Rao's instruction, this Supplemental Amendment is being transmitted by facsimile directly to the Examiner at (703) 746-5263 in order to expedite the issuance of Notice of Allowance. The Examiner has agreed to forward this Supplemental Amendment to docketing and ensure that it is properly scanned and entered into the file.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that "desaturase activity" is " Δ^8 fatty acid desaturase activity." Support for the amendment can be found for instance on page 6, lines 27 and 28, of the specification (describing SEQ ID NO: 4).

Claim 6 has been amended to specify that "desaturase activity" is " Δ^5 fatty acid desaturase activity." Support for this amendment can be found for instance on page 6, lines 21 and 22, of the specification (describing SEQ ID NO: 1).

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Claims 8 and 14 have been amended to specify that "desaturase activity" is " Δ^8 fatty acid desaturase activity." Support for the amendment can be found for instance on page 6, lines 25 and 26, of the specification (describing SEQ ID NO: 3).

Claims 9 and 29 have been amended to specify that "desaturase" is "an isolated or recombinant Δ^8 fatty acid desaturase." Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, including for instance in Example 13 (beginning on page 31).

Claim 28 has been amended to further clarify antecedent basis for the term "nucleic acid probe."

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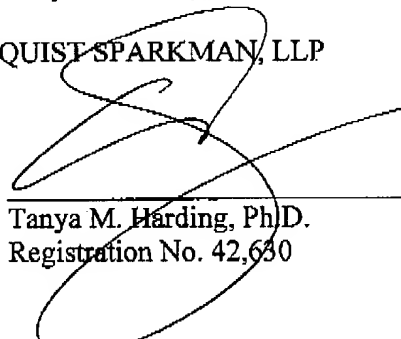
Conclusions

It is believed that this Supplemental Amendment addresses the issues raised by Examiner Rao during the telephone interview, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any minor issues remain regarding this Supplemental Amendment, please telephone the undersigned at (503) 226-7391.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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